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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/814,638	03/22/2001	Harold Mattice	403450	6291

7590
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03/27/2007

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, DAT

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3714

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/27/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/814,638

Applicant(s)

MATTICE ET AL.

Examiner

Dat T. Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 January 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 01/17/2007 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

This office action is in response to the amendments filed on 01/17/2007 in which applicant amends claims 1, 5, 13, 24 and 31 and responds to claim rejections. Claims 1-36 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acres et al. (US 5,820,459) in view of Creating One Industry Standard for Manufactures of Electronic Games of Chance and Universal Serial Bus (USB). Acres et al. discloses a system and method for operating gaming devices. The system includes a plurality of gaming devices (22)(24)(26) connected to an associated floor

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controller (28) over a network. The floor controller(s) can be connected to a host computer (32). The floor controllers can be connected to the gaming machines via a daisy chain configuration as shown in figure 12. Furthermore, Acres discloses any other equivalent interconnection scheme can be used (Figures 1, 12, Column 1, lines 8-32, Column 2, line 59-Column 3, line 18, Column 6, lines 30-41, Column 7, lines 18-55, Column 8, lines 33-43, Column 10, line 20-Column 11, line 20, Column 11, lines 44-54, Column 19, lines 1-64, and Claim 1).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the applicant's invention, to configure a gaming system as instantly claimed by re-configuring the system of Acres utilizing a standardized connection scheme as the Universal Serial Bus connection scheme described in Creating One Industry Standard for Manufactures of Electronic Games of Chance under the B-link section. Further evidence is provided by Universal Serial Bus created in 1996 utilizing a 4 line connection as disclosed on page 6 of Universal Serial Bus. One would be motivated to do so because it would help in setting an industry standard providing flexibility, component configuration, smoother installations, and reduced cost to integrate systems as discussed by the North American Gaming Regulators Association in Creating One Industry Standard for Manufactures of Electronic Games of Chance.

Regarding the MxN-bit shift register, as stated by the previous examiner in office action dated 07/10/2003, "bit shift registers have been known since the birth of computers." Evidence is provided by U.S. Patent 3,582,071, issued on June 1, 1971, for a network controller utilizing shift registers. Therefore it would have been a matter of

routine to one of ordinary skill in the art to include the claimed MxN bit shift registers in the device of Acres et al. in view of Creating One Industry Standard for Manufactures of Electronic Games of Chance and Universal Serial Bus in order to perform the essential functions of a network. Other references teaching the utilization of shift registers similar to that claimed have been cited below.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-36 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Wells (US patent pub. 2002/0115487 A1) discloses the use of shift registers for a gaming network.

Walker (US 3,931,966) discloses the use of shift registers for the control of signage utilizing lights on a network.

Olliges (US 4,648,600) discloses the use of MxN-bit shift registers for control of slot machine on a network.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dat T. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-2178. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-5pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert E. Pezzuto can be reached on (571)272-6996. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Dat Nguyen


Robert E Pezzuto
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3714